

Kendall, Silverton Mtn. Open!

Volume 140, issue 24 Thursday, December 18, 2014



Weekly Miner
established 1875

Silverton STANDARD

A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN JOURNALISM

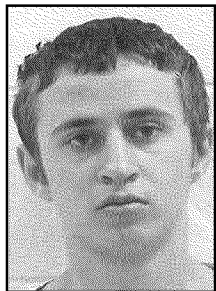
50¢
& the
MINER

Silverton Standard
established 1889

IN BRIEF

Gun stolen; suspect caught in stolen car

A 19-year-old Cortez man was arrested by La Plata County deputies early Tuesday morning, Dec. 2, after a handgun was reported stolen from a vehicle in Silverton.



William Ward of Cortez is also accused of driving a 2000 Honda Civic that had been reported stolen

from Grand Junction.

According to the San Juan County Sheriff's Office, witnesses saw Ward rummaging through vehicles in the south side of Silverton shortly before midnight, Dec. 1. Sheriff Sue Kurtz responded but the suspect was already southbound on U.S. 550.

He was taken into custody by La Plata County deputies after a traffic stop on U.S. 550 at 2:21 a.m.

Kendall Mtn. opens Friday; Silverton Mtn. open Saturday

Kendall Mountain Ski Area is opening on Friday, Dec. 19 and will remain open until Jan. 4, with the exception of Christmas Day, town officials say. After that it will remain open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays for the winter.

Meanwhile, Silverton Mountain also plans to open this weekend.

Santa scheduled to visit Silverton on Christmas Eve

North Pole officials say Santa Claus is planning to visit Silverton on Christmas Eve.

His reindeer-drawn sleigh is scheduled to land north of Silverton and he will ride into town in the old fire truck, arriving at the Town Tree at 13th and Greene streets at 1 p.m., where he will consult with local children about what gifts they may qualify for under Santa's various programs.

Food bank seeking help for holidays

It's that time of year — the Silverton Food Bank Annual Fundraiser.

The food bank is a project totally funded by donations

See BRIEFS, Page 6

Recall election to be Jan. 27



Karla Safranski

The recall election targeting Town Trustee Karla Safranski has been scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 27, and will be a mail-in ballot.

The Silverton Town Council voted unanimously Monday to schedule the election following certification of signatures forcing the vote.

Interim Town Administrator Mark Garcia told the Council that County Clerk Ladonna Jaramillo has agreed to conduct the election for the town,

which is currently without a Town Clerk.

Last month petitioners submitted more than 170 signatures seeking the recall of Trustee Safranski.

The petition targeting Safranski lists seven reasons for the recall effort, including "voting to waste town resources in pursuing an agenda to terminate Public Works Director Gilbert Archuleta."

The election is open to qualified

Silverton residents, who have until Jan. 7 to submit petitions with 10 registered to get on the ballot. The petition forms are available at Town Hall.

Meanwhile, Jan. 7 is also the deadline for those interested in being appointed to the Town Council vacancy created with the resignation last month of Trustee Tracy Boeyink.

The Town Council is scheduled to appoint a replacement at its Jan. 12 meeting.

MOLAS PASS RECREATION AREA



Mark Esper/Silverton Standard & the Miner

Congress gave final approval to the Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act on Friday, Dec. 12, creating the 461-acre Molas Pass Recreation Area on BLM land adjacent to the town's Molas Lake Park. The move will allow snowmobiling to continue on the land, which had been part of a wilderness study area. Story, Page 5.

McFarland pleads not guilty in death



Michael McFarland

A 32-year-old Silverton man entered a plea of not guilty in the June 6 death of his wife at their Silverton home and an April 13 jury trial has been scheduled in the case.

Michael Allen McFarland remained silent during a brief appearance before District Judge Gregory Lyman at the San Juan County Courthouse on Friday, Dec. 12, with his

lawyer Joel Frye entering the plea on his behalf.

McFarland is charged with second-degree murder, assault in the second degree and crime of violence.

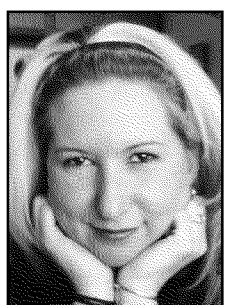
Frye said that he and District Attorney Todd Risberg expect the trial to take about two weeks or less.

Judge Lyman set a 30-day deadline for trial motions and

scheduled an April 3 pretrial conference in Durango.

Jessica McFarland, 32, was found dead at the couple's home at 1320 Mineral Street early on the morning of June 6, with lacerations to her neck.

Michael McFarland was taken into custody that morning and charged but subsequently freed on bond.



Jessica McFarland

Silverton Standard
& the Miner
A National Historic
Site in Journalism

HISTORIC SITE IN JOURNALISM
The Silverton Standard & the Miner

The La Plata Miner newspaper began publication on July 10, 1875, after newspaper pioneer John R. Curry managed to haul an old press by pack mule over Stony Pass. The Silverton Standard newspaper began operations in 1899. The two newspapers merged in 1922.

Over the years, the newspapers have covered many important stories, including the slaying of Town Marshal Clayton Osburn on August 24, 1891, and the subsequent lynching of two members of the notorious Lee Stockton Gang.

The newspaper also reported on the St. Patrick's Day snowdrifts of 1906 that killed some 20 miners in the San Juans, the Gold King Mine fire that killed six in June 1908, and on the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-19 that killed 161 people in Silverton, some 10 percent of the population.

The Silverton Standard & the Miner is the oldest continually operated newspaper, and the oldest business of any kind, on the Western Slope of Colorado, telling the stories of a remarkable community of diverse people that at times prospered and at other times struggled to survive in a very hostile and isolated part of the world.

Marked this fifth day of May, 2012.

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

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Contacting us
In Person:
1315 Snowden St., Suite 308
(Upstairs at the historic Miner's Union Hospital building)
Telephone:
Editor: (970) 387-5477
Advertising: (970) 387-5477
Mail:
Silverton Standard
P.O. Box 8 Silverton, CO 81433
E-mail:
editor@silvertonstandard.com
Staff
Mark Esper:
Editor and publisher

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Our goals
The Silverton Standard & the Miner is a weekly newspaper written for people interested in the issues and news of Silverton, Colo., and the surrounding San Juan Mountains region. The Standard voices a strong sense of community for Silverton and the San Juans as it brings you the issues, characters, landscapes, and the talent of the region. Stressing in-depth, balanced, and thoughtful writing, news, photography, and topical articles on key issues affecting the region, the Standard keeps the greater San Juan community informed, entertained, provoked, and engaged in dialogue about the community and its future.

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Silvertonstandard.com

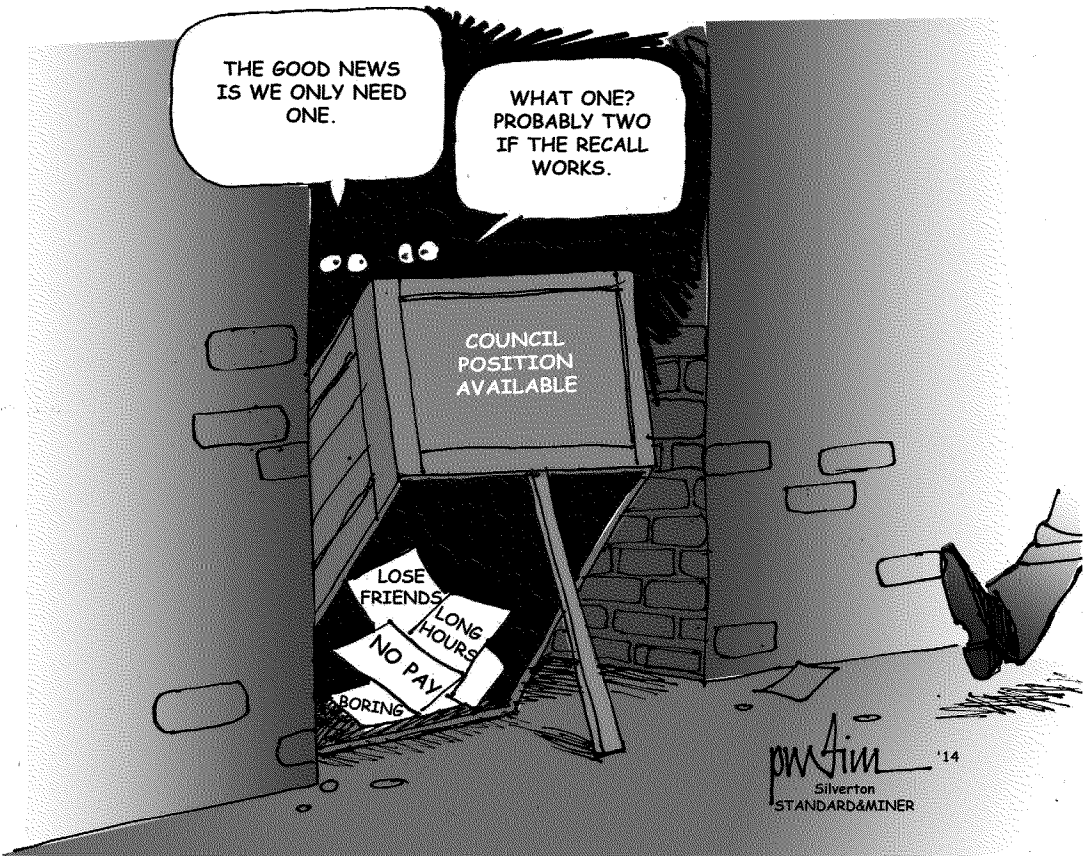
Recreation area a great gift

What better Christmas present for town than for Congress to actually act and establish the Molas Pass Recreation Area adjacent to the town's spectacular Molas Lake Park. This should make things a lot easier for snowmobilers and others wanting to take advantage of the beautiful terrain up there.

FORMER SILVERTON (and

EDITOR'S OPINION
Eureka) resident Elvin Gallagher, now a out 95 or so, called from Boise, Idaho, to wish everyone in Silverton happy holidays and to keep working together as a community like back in the old days. Meanwhile it's looking a lot like Christmas around town with the Town Tree now decorated, many homes and businesses lit up

and plenty of snow on hand.
WINTER PRETTY MUCH officially gets under way in Silverton this weekend with the opening of both Kendall Mountain and Silverton Mountain ski areas.
And the season kickoff party is set for Saturday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Grand Imperial, with live music.



Keep on keeping on ...

By Freddie Canfield

We began our second full weather week this December with our fifth early-morning ice fog in a row at 1.9 above, following a 46.9-degree high, which was as hot as we got this time around.

By Saturday morning, a nice moisture tap off Baja joined in with a huge central Pacific event from our west.

A measurement o 0.1 inches at 7 a.m. was to be followed by nearly continuing snow showers all day. Our heaviest accumulation occurred between roughly 4 to 6 p.m.

Susan Hale reported over six inches in two hours up in the Red Mountain district simultaneously. By 8 p.m. we were cut off from most of the moisture due to a wind shift out of the Northwest.

We got 6.4 inches with .46 inches water content by Sunday morning. Up at 5:30 a.m. for Freddie and another day of mucking snow. Progressive Pacific precipitation continues to come in mostly wee hour waves, 01. inch Monday, 0.8 inch Tuesday and another 0.9 inch Wednesday morning. More to follow.

You don't always get what you want but sometimes — if you try so hard — you get what you need. We've heard that song before however this time it really did happen. Thanks to co-operation between all users and interest groups and a bipartisan effort in Congress progress has actually occurred.

May this greatly anticipated miracle be a template for further collaboration in our realm when it comes to diversified, all-inclusive outdoor recreational planning and implementation.

So what is Freddie referring to? Why, none other than Big and Little Molas being opened up in perpetuity for multiple use winter recreation. Grooming, snowmobiling, mushing, skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing and sledding. How about kite skiing while we are at it?

The good news is that caring and sharing inclusively instead of plotting and reacting exclusively has trumped once again.

Working together with the willing, whoever they may be, rewards us with positive tangible

WEATHER AND OBSERVATIONS

Date	High	Low	Precip., conditions
TM 12-18-14	47	19	0.1 (F) 3
TM 12-17-14	47	19	0.1 (F) 3
TM 12-16-14	47	19	0.1 (F) 3
TM 12-15-14	47	19	0.1 (F) 3
TM 12-14-14	47	19	0.1 (F) 3
TM 12-13-14	47	19	0.1 (F) 3
TM 12-12-14	47	19	0.1 (F) 3
TM 12-11-14	47	19	0.1 (F) 3
TM 12-10-14	47	19	0.1 (F) 3
TM 12-9-14	47	19	0.1 (F) 3

results. As always we the people are all in this together, so let us keep on keeping on because we have got to make it work — no exceptions, no excuses. No more negativity. Get thyself unstuck!

Over in the Sunny Side of the 1300 block of Greene Street the Westlunds have said it best with the words on four signs on the windows of My Favorite Things: "Hope, love, Peace Joy. For real!

May this be indicative of an ongoing shift in attitude in keeping with our altitude way up here in the highest county in this great land of ours.

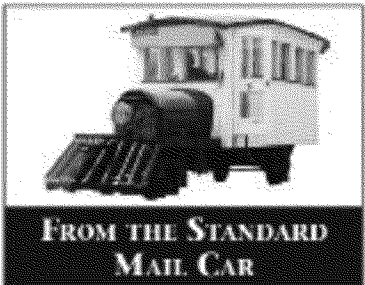
Keep going, keep growing, and while we are at it — keep let going. If we can simply get out of our own way, tomorrow will trump yesterday. The best is yet to come. Let' go for it!

As for subscriber Ian Dodd, who is critical of last week's weather report in a letter to the editor on this page, are you possible related to none other than the late, great Phil Dodd?

If so you evidently weren't endowed with our long-time friend and neighbor's outrageous sense of humor. Humor including both ironic and wry references to scientific fundamentalism.

Do you secretly have a crystal ball that gives you clear access to the minds, hearts and souls of your fellow humans' beliefs? Perhaps you are the one who has yet to look deeply in the mirror and examine your own unrecognized emotion-backed opinions. What Freddie says evidently is not for a moment as serious as your supposed attempt at "scoffing."

Lighten up and dry out there, Buster.



Freddie's weather from a Ouija board?

Editor;
I just finished Freddie Canfield's "The Power of Positive Thinking" in which he implores Silvertonians (and, I suppose, readers further afield) to put the power of their minds to good use and beseech the weather gods (who Freddie seems to believe in) to bring on the El Niño to full effect this winter.

The author wonders whether we might be able to "consciously or unconsciously" affect the weather through our "expectation, prayer, longing or worry" and then offers his own answer, "Your friend Freddie is hardly immune to such notions."

He then goes on to plead with those who may be "asking, prayer [sic], incanting or worse" for a dry winter to cut it out. "We are counting on each of us to do our part with your potentially more powerful powers on the powers that be than we know." It's hard to figure out exactly what that sentence means, but I think he's trying to say that if we all just put our minds to it, we can persuade some meteorological marionette master to take pity on us.

Really? At first, I thought this might have been a piece of Jon Stewart-esque satire, but then I realized the author was being entirely serious: "Yet I am open to the possible possible." (Whatever that means.) Freddie says there will be those who "scoff at such things as 'magic thinking'".

Damn straight I'm scoffing! The notion that we can impact the weather through our thought processes ranks right up there with Ouija boards, reading tea leaves and water witching.

In the 21st century such notions are, in the words of a Nobel-winning scientist, "not only not right, but not even wrong." What's next, Silverton Standard? A weekly astrology forecast?

Go ahead: think wet thoughts, incant or sacrifice virgins all you want, but I'd suggest heeding the words of Mark Twain, "It is better to read the weather forecast before we pray for rain."

— Ian Dodd, rain-soaked southern California

EPA extends period for commenting on Red & Bonita project

Editor;
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 (EPA) recently learned that a copy of the administrative record for the Red and Bonita Removal Action was not available at the Silverton Library as stated in a public notice published Nov. 20, 2014,

See LETTERS, Page 7

Write to us

The Silverton Standard & the Miner welcomes letters to the editor. Send letters via e-mail to editor@silvertonstandard.com, or via snail mail to, Editor, Silverton Standard & the Miner, P.O. Box 8, Silverton, CO 81433.

STOCKING THE SHELVES



Photo by Rose Raab

The Silverton Food Bank has been relocated to the southeast corner room in the basement of the Miners Union Hospital. In addition to making the purchases for the food bank, Patty Dailey (above) and Fred Fasching also got new shelving set up in the room. Patty scrubbed the walls prior to installation. Upcoming distribution dates are to be determined. St. Patrick's Church offers its continued thanks to all for the many generous monetary contributions. Tax-deductible donations, payable to St. Patrick's Church, may be mailed to P.O. Box 331, Silverton, CO 81433. If making food donations, please make sure that the food items are non-perishable and that they do not have expired dates.

County, USFS plot strategy for Molas, Coal Bank toilets

County and Forest Service officials are trying to work out a deal to keep the restrooms on Coal Bank and Molas passes open when current funding runs out in July.

The Forest Service announced a year ago that it planned to close the restrooms and demolish them unless some other entity agreed to operate them. San Juan County stepped in with some Secure Rural Schools funding last year but that source has now dried up.

The restrooms are operated from late April to around the end of September.

County Board Chairman Ernie Kuhlman said the restroom facilities are a high priority given the heavy summer use at Molas and Coal Bank.

"If we take that bathroom out at Molas it will be a public health nightmare," Kuhlman said.

Columbine District Ranger Matt Janowiak told the county commissioners on Monday, Dec. 15, that he'd be willing to enter into a long-term lease for the county to take over operations of the restrooms.

But county officials said the only plan they have come up with is to take up the offer of Erick and Lizzie Loyer of Silverton to maintain the facilities in exchange for operating a food vending service at Molas.

Janowiak said he'd have to check on his authority to allow such an arrangement.

For his part Janowiak suggested the county could sell ad space on a map or list businesses helping to fund the restroom.

"We have the ability to lease the lots and the toilets," Janowiak said. "But I need to research what rights we can kick over to the county in a lease. We need to

take on the issue of commercial activity up there ”

And Janowiak questioned whether such an arrangement would be feasible for the contractor.

"It's definitely an issue any time you start a new business," Erick Lover said. "It's rolling the dice."

County Attorney Paul Sunderland pointed out that the county currently pays \$350 a month for porta-potties at Red Mountain Pass during the winter.

He questioned whether that funding would be better directed to summer use at Molas and Coal Bank.

In their meeting with Forest Service officials on Monday, the commissioners also discussed the South Mineral Creek Road.

Janowiak said the Forest Service, facing budget cuts, is "looking at opportunities to turn roads over to counties."

He said the South Mineral Creek Road is one of the roads that could be up for discussion. He pointed out the Forest Service just spent \$600,000 to replace the Mineral Creek Bridge.

He suggested the county could take over the road as far as the South Mineral Creek Campground — and take over the campground too — to provide a revenue stream to maintain it.

But county commissioners were not eager to accept the gift.

"The road base is so deteriorated it will take tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars to bring it back," Kuhlman said.

Janowiak said the Forest Service is also “contemplating a little sprucing up” of the dispersed campsights at the lower end of the road, and possibly adding more toilet facilities and other minor improvements and charging a

\$9 fee for the campsites.

"We are still a ways off from deciding to charge fees for the remainder of the sites," Janowiak said. "I think there would be a lot of resistance to that."

Commissioners OK first reading of medical marijuana ordinance

The San Juan County commissioners on Monday, Dec. 15, unanimously approved the first reading of an amendment to an existing ordinance that will allow medical marijuana businesses and grow facilities in the county.

The county already passed an ordinance last year allowing recreational marijuana businesses.

See COUNTY, Page 6

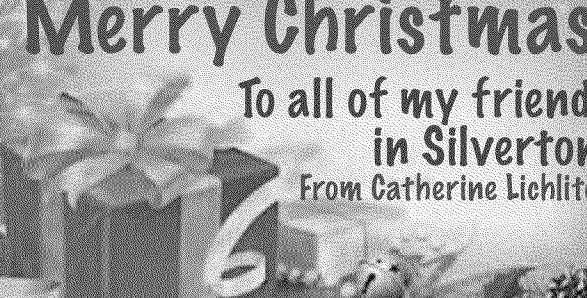
For All Our
"Silverton Friends"
Far and Near:
Our Very Best
Wishes
for the
Holiday Season
and for a
Peaceful and
Rebuilding 2015

*Karen & George
Chapman*


Hungry Moose
Bar & Grill
DON'T MOOSE WITH MY GREEN CHILI!

1260 Blair Street
Silverton Colorado
(970) 387-9910


□□□ □□□□□□□□□□s□□□t□□□□M□□s!

A black and white photograph of a Christmas scene. In the foreground, there are several wrapped gifts, one with a large bow. To the right, there are pinecones and a small, fluffy animal, possibly a cat or dog, peeking out from behind some foliage. The background is decorated with stars and a garland.

Merry Christmas
To all of my friends
in Silverton!
From Catherine Lichliter

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES!

No **STREAM** events over
Christmas break: Dec. 22nd-Jan. 2nd



Tutoring: M- ! 3:30-5:00

Music Appreciation: Tues 4:30-6:00

Pep Squad: Wed. 3:30-5:00

Cooking Class: Wed. 5-7 pm

Drama Club: Thurs 3:30-5:00

Volleyball: Students and community members welcome! Mon. 5-6:30 pm

Climbing: Tues 5-6 pm, ! urs 3:30-5:00

Open Gym: Tues 6-7:30, Fri 4:30-6:00

High School Basketball: Practice M- ! :


2014-15 GAME SCHEDULE:

Date	Time	Opponent
Dec. 19	4 pm	@ Ignacio
Jan. 10	Tbd.	@ Dolores/Mancos
Jan. 17	Tbd.	@ Nucla/Dove Creek
Jan. 24	2 pm	Telluride @ Home
Jan. 31	Tbd.	Mancos/Dolores @ Home
Feb. 7	Tbd.	Nucla/Dove Creek @ Home
Feb. 14	Tbd.	Cedaredge @ Home

Science, Technology, Math:

2 prmrmmrr
vrrrrrrrrrrrrrr
mddpssbrrrr
brrrrrrrrrrrrrr
rrrrrrrrrrrrrr
rrrrrrrrrrrrrr




**United States
Environmental Protection
Agency**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

**THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)
ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT
OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD
FOR THE RED AND BONITA REMOVAL SITE
SILVERTON, SAN JUAN COUNTY, COLORADO**

The Administrative Record (AR) for the Red and Bonita site includes all information used during the decision-making process that led to the environmental response at the site, including the selection of the Removal Action. Other documents, including the comments received on the Administrative Record and EPA's response to significant comments, may be added at a later date.

EPA encourages the public to review and comment on the documents. The Administrative Record is available at the Information Repository listed below.

Silverton Library
1117 Reese Street
Silverton, CO 81433
Contact: Jackie Kerwin, (970) 387-5770
Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 11am - 8pm
Fri. & Sat., 10am - 5pm
Closed Sun. & Mon.

In addition, copies of administrative record documents may be requested or reviewed by calling the EPA Superfund Records Center at 303-312-7273 or 800-227-8917 ext. 312-7273 (toll free Region 8 only).

Due to problems with placement of the Administrative Record in the Silverton Library, EPA is allowing an additional thirty days for submission of public comments. Comments on the Administrative Record may be submitted in writing for the next 30 days to:

Steven Way
On-Scene Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1590 Wynkoop Street, 8EPR-SA
Denver, CO 80202-1129

SHARE
THE
SPIRIT!



Christmas Day
Noon to 2 pm
Silverton School

Turkey and fixings provided.
All are invited to bring a
favorite holiday dish to share
if you wish.

Silverton's
Community
Christmas
Dinner
at the
Silverton School

Sponsored by
First Congregational Church of Silverton
with assistance from the Silverton School



SHARE
THE
SPIRIT!

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

First Congregational Church
11th and Reese St.

Join us at 6 p.m. as we celebrate
Christmas in Bethlehem

All are Welcome!

The church may be chilly so dress in
warm layers and bring a blanket to
share!

GIVE IT UP!

TIME TO QUIT SMOKING!

A few reasons to make it
your New Year's resolution:



COLORADO
QuitLine
Be tobacco free

This ad sponsored by San Juan County Public Health Dept.

MOUNTAIN HAPPENINGS

Saturday, Dec. 20

• Silverton Mountain Ski Area opening day.

Wednesday, Dec. 24

• Santa arrives at the Town Tree, 13th and Greene streets, 1 p.m.

• Christmas Eve Mass, 5 p.m., St. Patrick's Church.

• Christmas Eve Candle-light Service, 6 p.m., First Congregational Church.

• Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m., Silverton Church of the Hill.

Christmas Day

• Community Dinner, noon- 2 p.m., Silverton School.

Ongoing

• Free Salsa Class for Everyone: Monday nights, 6:30-7 p.m. (Basics); 7-8 (Moves and Combos), Kendall Mountain Community Center.

• Silverton Threads Quilting Club, 7 p.m., Tuesdays, Kendall Mountain Community Center. All interested in quilting, crochet, knitting, and crafts are invited.

• San Juan County Historical Society Archive — Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Silverton Movement Center, Pilates Classes: Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m., Tuesdays, 5:15 p.m. Kettlebell/Weight/circuit classes: Tuesday, Wednesday, Fridays, 8:30 a.m. and Monday & Thursdays, 5:15 p.m.

• Belly Dance Flow: All Dance, No Talk! Mixed levels, beginners welcome. Thursdays 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Kendall Mountain Community Center. \$12 drop in rate

• Blair Street Historic District Association, 5 p.m., first Wednesday of each month, Empire Street Bunkhouse.

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets in Silverton every Wednesday at 7 p.m. For locations, questions or help, call (888) 333-9649.

Silverton Youth Center

The Youth Center is open from 5-7:30 p.m. for Elementary ages, Sunday through Saturday. Middle school/high school, 5-9 p.m., Sunday through Saturday.

Spiritual Events

• Church of Christ, Sundays: Bible class, 8 a.m.; service, 9 a.m.; and Sunday Bible discussion, 5 p.m., (970) 946-7648.

• St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Father Nat Foshage, Mass, 5 p.m. Saturdays and Wednesdays, 1005 Reese St., 325- 4373.

• Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Spike Bond, president, Sunday services: 9 a.m. priesthood, 10 a.m.; sacrament, 11 a.m. Sunday school, 727 Greene St., 387- 5338.

• First Congregational Church of Silverton, Sue Kurtz, moderator. Sunday service 9 a.m. All are welcome. 1070 Reese St. (970) 387-5759. e-mail: silvertonucc@aol.com Website: silvertonchurch.org Look for us on Facebook!

• Silverton Church on the Hill, 11th and Snowden, Pastor Mark Lawson, (970) 387-5215. Sunday KSJC (92.5 FM) 8-10 a.m., Christian music, devotional and sermon; Bible study, 9 a.m.; Children's Sunday School at 10:15; 10:15 a.m. regular service; Wednesday night prayer/fellowship, 7 p.m.

• Word of Life Fellowship, Pastor Jim Greenfield, Sunday service starts at 9 a.m., 1706 Empire St. 387-5893.

What's Happening?

Got somethin' goin' on? Contact the Standard. Phone 387-5477, e-mail editor@silvertonstandard.com

For the Record

San Juan County Sheriff's Office blotter

Dec. 8 — A motorist was assisted. A warning was issued for a snowmobile parked in the street and it was moved by the owner. Two warnings were issued for speeding.

Dec. 9 — Two motorists were assisted. A warning was issued for speeding.

Dec. 10 — Daniel J. Walker, of Bayfield, was issued citation for speeding; 45 in a 35 mph zone. Ivan L. Wilson, of Delta, was issued a summons for driving under revocation.

Dec. 11 — James P. Weller, of Silverton, was issued a citation for speeding; 59 in a 40 mph zone. Two warnings were issued for speeding. A complaint was received of a semi driving in the wrong lane; the driver was warned. A motorist was assisted.

Dec. 12 — Four warnings were issued for speeding. A warning was issued for failing to dim headlights. A warning was issued for failure to stop at a stop sign. A warning was issued for a defective headlight. A possible drunk driver was reported, the officer was unable to locate the vehicle.

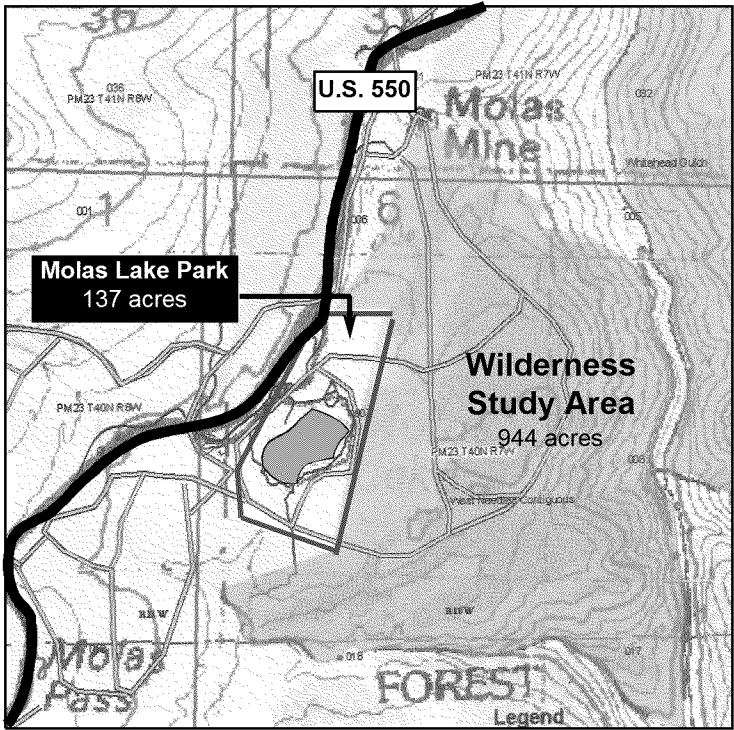
Dec. 13 — A motorist was assisted.

Dec. 14 — A citizen was assisted. The officer responded to a report of a vehicle parked in the roadway; it was gone when the officer arrived.

Christmas Events at First Congregational Church of Silverton

First Congregational Church in Silverton will conduct a Christmas Eve candle light service at 6 p.m. You are invited to join the celebration of Christmas in Bethlehem in song and story. On Christmas Day, a Community Christmas dinner will be served at the Silverton School, noon to 2 p.m. Bring a favorite dish to share if you wish! All are welcome!

The church is looking for people to help with the dinner. Please call Sue Kurtz at 387- 5759 if you would like to help with food prep, serving, setup, cleanup, etc.



The map above shows what was the West Needles Wilderness Study Area east of Molas Lake Park. The Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act converts about half the area into the Molas Pass Recreation Area (right), and it will be usable for snowmobiles.

Congress passes Hermosa Creek protection bill

A landmark bill to protect more than 100,000 acres of the Hermosa Creek watershed — and to allow snowmobiling to continue in a popular area on Molas Pass — won final approval by Congress on Friday, Dec. 12 and now awaits President Obama's signature.

The Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act would establish a management plan for the watershed based on recommendations from the Hermosa Creek River Protection Workgroup, which included local water officials, conservationists, sportsmen, mountain bikers, off-road-vehicle users, outfitters, property owners, grazing permit holders, and other interested citizens.

Sen. Michael Bennet, (D-Colo.) introduced the bill last year with Senator Mark Udall (D-Colo.), while Rep. Scott Tipton (R-Cortez) introduced a companion bill in the House of Representatives.

Of particular interest to Silver-tonians is the creation of the new 461-acre Molas Pass Recreation Area on BLM land formerly part of the West Needles Wilderness Study Area.

That area is popular with snow-mobilers, but the Bureau of Land Management was threatening to deny access to snowmobiles due to a change in wilderness study area guidelines.

"I'm excited to hear that the vote went in our favor on Molas for motorized use," said Jim Lokey, president of the Silverton Snow-mobile Club.

He noted the new law will allow him to continue grooming trails in the area.

"It's important to keep that user-friendly area open. This is where the families and kids will be riding."

"The Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act is the product of years of community work and cooperation to create a piece of legislation that honors the diverse values of our mountain communities," said Pete McKay, San Juan County commissioner. "I think this bill reflects a common sense

Of particular interest to Silvertonians is the creation of the new 461-acre Molas Pass Recreation Area on BLM land formerly part of the West Needles Wilderness Study Area.

compromise that works for everyone. I would like to thank our local partners for all the hard work that made this bill possible and I am so very pleased that Congress has approved this legislation before the end of the year."

"This bill represents a true balance between all the diverse uses of the Hermosa Creek watershed — Congressman Tipton and Sen. Bennet deserve our thanks for honoring the community consensus," said Steve Fearn, San Juan County's representative on the Southwestern Water Conservation District Board.

"Folks in Southwest Colorado can finally claim victory. Everyone

in the local communities — from sportsmen, to snowmobilers, to conservationists, to the mining industry — can celebrate their hard work to come together and implement their shared vision for one of Colorado's natural treasures," Sen. Bennet said. "This bill was written by them, and it protects this land for many of its historic uses, including fishing for cutthroat trout, backcountry hunting, camping, mountain biking and motorcycle riding on world class trails, and snowmobiling through fresh powder on Molas Pass."

"The people of Southwest Colorado who have dedicated so much time and effort as a community to help craft and support this legislation that will protect the Hermosa

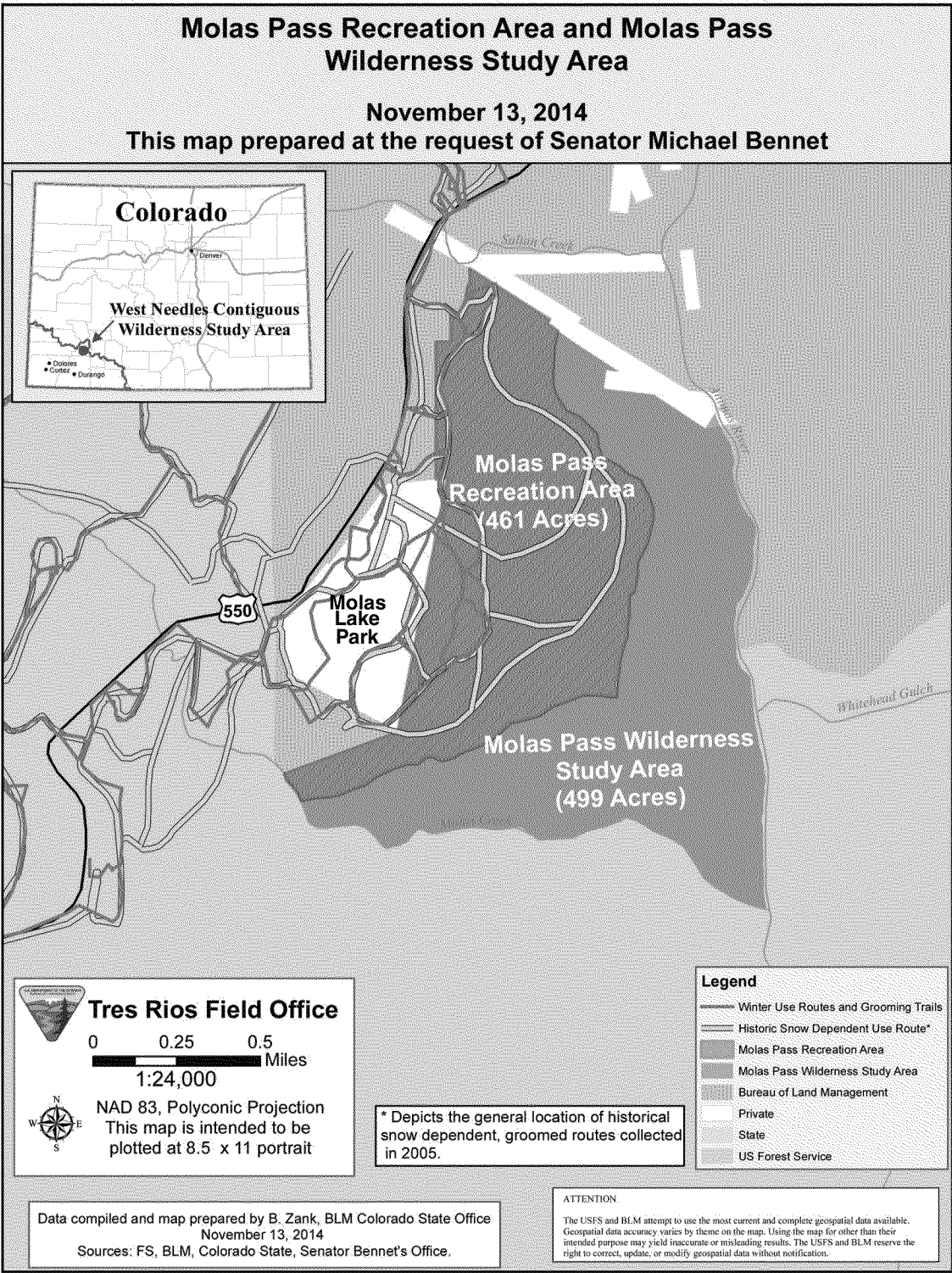
Creek Watershed and the multiple uses of that land, have reason to celebrate today," Tipton said. "I'm pleased to have been able to work with the community and Senator Bennet to get this locally-driven legislation to the President's desk."

The bill would designate approximately 70,650 acres of the San Juan National Forest land as the Hermosa Creek Special Management Area. Much of the land would remain open to all historic uses of the forest under the bill, including mountain biking, motorized recreation, and selective timber harvesting. Grazing will continue to be allowed in the entire watershed.

In accordance with the consen-

sus recommendations of the Hermosa Creek Workgroup, roughly 38,000 acres of the watershed would be set aside as wilderness, to be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. No roads or mineral development are permitted in wilderness areas; while hunting, fishing, horseback riding and non-mechanized recreation are allowed.


The bill also provides for the conveyance of approximately 82 acres of BLM land to La Plata County for its use as a possible future multi-events center site to complement the potential development of a new county fairgrounds on an adjacent parcel of county-owned property.



St. Patrick's Catholic Church


Invites Everyone to Celebrate Christmas Eve Mass at 5 PM

Light refreshments will be served after Mass at the Brown Bear Cafe.



A Blessed Christmas To All!

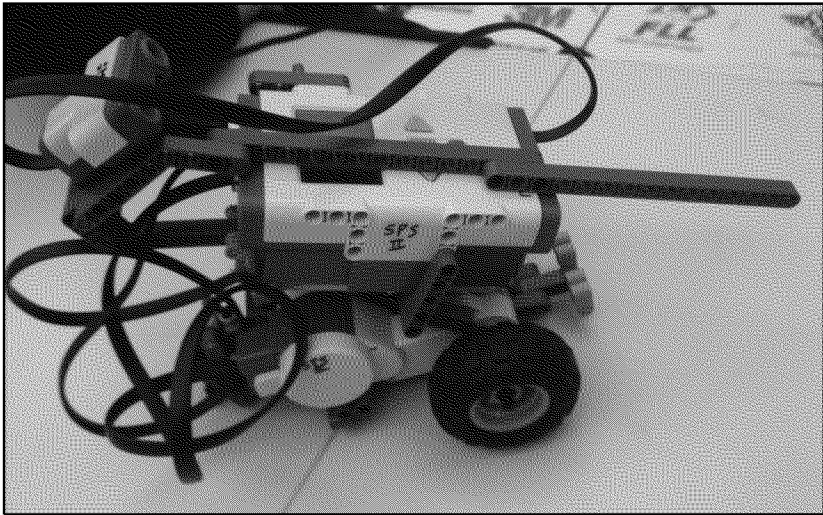
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ROBOT BUILDERS



The Silverton School Robotics Team took part in the Lego Robotics competition on Saturday, Dec. 6, at Miller Middle School in Durango, for the second year in a row. The team was awarded a judges choice award (trophy in Erland's hand) for creativity and displaying of Core Values. Team members from Left to Right in photo Jackie Berenyi, Paton Edwards, (coaches Chris Gober and Paul Joyce) Sage Chimner, Erland Rayos, Wyatt Gober, Seamus Garvin, and Galen Chimner.



LETTERS, from Page 2

in the *Silverton Standard*.

A compact disk containing copies of all of the documents in the administrative record has now been provided to the library.

Since the administrative record was not available at the local repository at the time of the public notice, EPA is extending the deadline for public comment by an additional 30 days.

Any written comments should be sent to Steve Way, On-Scene Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1590 Wynkoop Street, 8EPR-SA, Denver, CO 80202-1129.

The EPA sincerely regrets any inconvenience.

—Cynthia Peterson, community involvement coordinator, EPA

COUNTY, from Page 3

County officials said one person has expressed an interest in a medical marijuana operation.

The second reading and final approval of the ordinance is scheduled for the commissioners' first meeting in 2015, on Jan. 14.

Hospital project to get started

The old Miners Union Hospital will be getting a major overhaul next summer in a \$370,000 project to rejuvenate the 106-year-old building.

David Singer, of Silverton Restoration Services, said he hopes to award the final construction contract on Jan. 26 and start some work in February.

The county-owned building is due to get an elevator to make it handicapped-accessible, and extensive window, door and masonry work. The building's restrooms will also be made ADA compliant.

The project is being funded by a \$150,000 grant from the Department of Local Affairs, \$200,000 from the State Historical Fund and \$20,000 from San Juan County.

Rehabilitation of the building's interior would be completed in a second phase.

BRIEFS, from Page 1

and operated by volunteers. It was started 14 years ago by Andy Gleason and Rose Raab doing the books (which she still does today).

The food bank has a total open-door policy, and everyone is welcome. Last winter it helped lots of needy people and the food bank is trying to go into the winter with funds to keep the shelves stocked.

Any donation will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. Checks may be made out to St. Patrick's Church and mailed to P.O. Box 331, Silverton, CO 81433.

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Mark Esper/Silverton Standard & the Miner
Alexis Gallegos sets up a play during basketball practice in the Silverton School Gym on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 19. The co-ed Silverton Miners high school basketball team is preparing for two road games in Ignacio on Friday, Dec. 19. At left is head coach Larry Gallegos.

Silverton Miners start season

The Silverton Miners high school basketball team has started the season with a win and a loss against the Telluride boys and girls teams last Friday, and the team hits the road to take on the Ignacio Bobcats in two games this Friday, Dec. 19.

Coach Larry Gallegos says he has nine players this year and he thinks the team is stronger.

“We lost Will (Custer) and Levi (Lokey) but I think we’re a little faster,” Gallegos said. “I think this year’s team would beat last year’s.”

Silverton Miners Basketball Schedule		
Date	Time	Opponent
Dec. 19	4 pm	@ Ignacio
Jan. 10	Tbd.	@ Dolores/Mancos
Jan. 17	Tbd.	@ Nucla/Dove Creek
Jan. 24	2 pm	Telluride @ Home
Jan. 31	Tbd.	Mancos/Dolores @ Home
Feb. 7	Tbd.	Nucla/Dove Creek @ Home
Feb. 14	Tbd.	Cedaredge @ Home

Megan McGrath, Mark Watson and Willy Tookey are serving as assistant coaches.

Team captains are Ernesto Saldana and Alexis Gallegos.

Other team members are Talitha Gallegos, Hannah deKay, Edgar Avitia, Luis Castro, Martin Torres, Bowen Coates and Orion Knight.

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE AT TAX SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR DEED

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having an Interest or Title of Record in or to the said Premises and To Whom It May Concern, and more especially to

Patricia A & William T Kaucher

You and each of you are hereby

made a request upon said county for a deed to said real estate;

issued for said real estate to Seaton Enterprises at 9:00 a.m. on the 23rd day of February, A.D. 2015, unless the same has been redeemed.

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasury Order.

Witness my hand this 23rd day of October, 2014.

Beverly E. Rich
County Treasurer of San Juan County

Published in the Silverton Standard & the Miner on Dec. 4, Dec. 11, Dec. 18, 2014

made a request upon said county for a deed to said real estate;

issued for said real estate to Douglas Allen at 9:00 a.m. on the 23rd day of March, A.D. 2015, unless the same has been redeemed.

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasury Order.

Witness my hand this 9nd day of December, 2014.

Beverly E. Rich
County Treasurer of San Juan County

Published in the Silverton Standard & the Miner on Dec. 11, Dec. 18, 2014.

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE AT TAX SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR DEED

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having an Interest or Title of Record in or to the said Premises and To Whom It May Concern, and more especially to

Dan Kalina & Kathy Kalina

You and each of you are hereby

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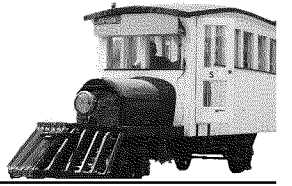
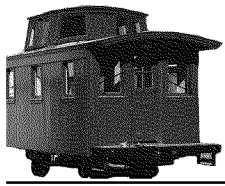
The Silverton Town Board is seeking letters of interest from residents of Silverton who would like to serve on the Town Board. Interested residents must submit a letter of intent to Town Hall by 5:00 p.m. on January 7, 2015. Letters will be reviewed during a work session on January 12, 2015, and selection will be made that night during the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting.

HELP WANTED

The Town of Silverton is advertising for a new Maintenance Worker position. Interested applicants may obtain job information at Silverton Town Hall or at www.silverton.co.us where the job description and application are available for download. This is a temporary full-time position with an hourly rate range of \$15/hr-\$25/hr with potential to become a permanent position. A completed application must be delivered to Silverton Town Hall by 4:00 p.m. on December 19, 2014. The Town of Silverton is an EOE.

The Town of Silverton is advertising for a new Public Works Director position. Interested applicants may obtain job information at Silverton Town Hall or at www.silverton.co.us where the job description and application are available for download. This is a full-time position with a salary range of \$41,600-\$72,800 and a completed application and resume must be delivered to Silverton Town Hall by 4:00 p.m. on December 24, 2014. The Town of Silverton is an EOE.

The Town of Silverton is advertising for a new Town Clerk/Treasurer position. Interested applicants may obtain job information at Town Hall or at www.silverton.co.us where the job description and application are available for download. This is a full-time position with a salary range of \$37,000-\$53,000 and a completed application and resume must be delivered to Silverton Town Hall by 4:00 p.m. on December 19, 2014. The Town of Silverton is an EOE.



WYBACK



From the December 22, 1917 edition of the *Silverton Standard*:

NEWSFROM EUREKA.

A party of young fellows undertook to climb Crown mountain Tuesday after-noon, and when they got about two-thirds up, one of the boys reached a place where he thought he couldn't go further. The rest of the boys went on, leaving him to work his way out of the "tight." Thinking he had extricated himself from his predicament, the other boys came back a different way, and he was left still "hung up." Attracting attention by calling for help, a party left Eureka at dusk to his rescue. With lights flashing up the mountainside like big fireflies, the rescue party went to his assistance and he was easily gotten off his perch. If you are not a "Hill-Billy," better not tackle the peaks of the San Juan; the Alps are not in it with them.

Last Sunday night the first show was shown in the new Sunnyside club house. The pictures were fine, clean, and steady, projected by a power G-A machine. The 6 reel feature, "Baby Mine," was certainly a scream of a farce. Moving pictures and dances will be a regular feature of the winter's festivities.

The Sunnyside orchestra met for their first practice Wednesday night.

50 YEARS AGO

From the December 18, 1964 edition of the *Silverton Standard & the Miner*:

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO INCORPORATE.

The San Juan County Historical Society is in the process of filing papers of incorporation with the Colorado Secretary of State.

The society, which expects to be incorporated early in the new year, stems from the appointment

SUNNYSIDE WORK, 1917



Photographer Bruce Marquand took this photo of construction of the crushing plant at the Sunnyside Mine tram terminal at Lake Emma on Nov. 27, 1917. The view is from

of a chamber of commerce committee earlier this year to set up a museum in the old county jail on the grounds of the courthouse.

The society's primary target will be the establishment of a museum in the old jail to open in time for the summer season next year. But the incorporators of the society feel the general task of preservation and study of the county's history will involve many more areas during the new year, including the establishment of some sort of adequate storage for records, maps and old documents which will come into the society's possession through the years.

Incorporators for the historical society are Helen Salfisberg, Janet and Ian Thompson, Fern and Dave Howes, Robert W. Delany of the Fort Lewis College faculty and Allen Nossaman.

Delaney is the director of the newly formed Center for Southwestern Studies at Fort Lewis and he has agreed to serve among the incorporators as an advisor.

FIRE AT THE SAN JUAN.

A fire at the San Juan Bar and Hostel in Silverton did an estimated \$500 worth of damage early Saturday morning, and was arrested just in time to prevent

what might have been a serious blaze.

The fire started in a chimney along the south wall of the bar and cafe on the first floor of the two-story brick building. The overheated chimney had started the floor and wall paper on fire and the flames were leaping toward the ceiling when Bud Leber discovered the fire on his way by the front of the establishment.

Owner Dean Joseph became aware of the fire almost simultaneously and he, Leber and Morton Henry (Mac) MacQuarrie fought the blaze with fire extinguishers and continued it by the time the volunteer fire department arrived to bring it under control.

The owner of the "Casey Jones," the mine bus of the Sunnyside and one of the last engines to ride the narrow gauge rails out of Silverton, wants to sell the historic locomotive and several Silvertonians have decided it should be brought back to Silverton if at all possible.

A fund raising campaign has been initiated locally to raise money to purchase the Casey Jones from its present owner, Ralph Atlas of Durango, and return it to Silverton.

The fact that the Casey Jones was available first came to the attention of Silvertonian John Ross this past Sunday in a conversation with Atlas at the Kendall Mountain ski area.

Looking Back

20 Years Ago December 15, 1994

Rescuers of the drowning dump truck last week were Louis Girodo, Mike Maxfield and Jim and Don Dean. ... Latest word is that the truck may be replaced by the town's insurance company.

25 Years Ago December 14, 1989

Freda Peterson says that donations were made to the Hillside Cemetery Fund recently in memory of Mary Swanson by Phil and Romana Antonelli, Mr. and Mrs. Sylvio Antonelli, Marge Baudino, Citizens State Bank of Ouray, Lydia Copenhaver, Lena Dalla, Mr. and Mrs. Myron Darmour, Mrs. Mary Eaton, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Heidy, Mrs. Jimmie Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Probst, San Juan County Senior Citizens, Tom Savich, Fury and Barbara Todeschi, Joe and Teddie Todeschi, Celia Trogia and the Walt Gordon family.

30 Years Ago December 13, 1984

It's the end of an era. No more will the fire siren be heard when there is a fire. Firemen are now being alerted by pagers, which they will carry at all times.

A party was held by mill employees at Manzie's Friday for mill superintendent Eric Olin, who has resigned his position to take a job in Caldwell, Idaho. Barney Darnton is the new mill superintendent.

A jury of seven women and five men deliberated two hours and twenty-eight minutes Wednesday before returning a verdict of guilty of first degree assault in the Steven Holmquest trial. ... A very sparse crowd was present Tuesday to witness the first day of proceedings in the trial of Holmquest, accused in the December 1983 hammer beating of Kjerstine Jennings.

A wonderful time was had by all at Manzie's Lounge last Friday night at their early bird Christmas party. Mike Geryak played nonstop for almost four hours!

35 Years Ago December 13, 1979

Norman Maddex, a Silverton resident for the past two years, has been named as the town's new Street and Water Superintendent to replace Ron Pense, who recently quit and returned to the local mineral industries.

The Public Utilities Commission of the State of Colorado issued a decision Wednesday approving the sale of the Durango-Silverton branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad to the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Company, owned by Charles E. Bradshaw Jr. of Orlando, Florida.

The Silverton Standard & the Miner

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Happy Holidays